

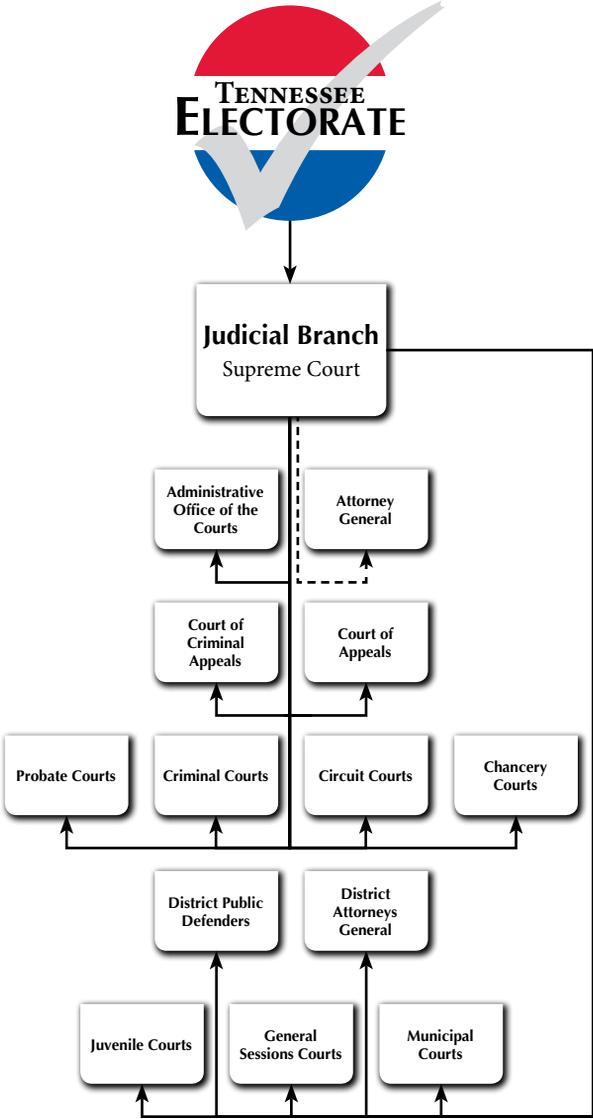
SUPREME COURT





SECTION III

Judicial Branch



Introduction

The judicial branch, one of the three basic divisions of state government, serves as a check on the powers of both the legislative and executive branches. With the power of judicial review, the courts may rule on the constitutionality of legislation passed by the General Assembly and consider the legality of administrative policies and regulations.

Tennessee’s judicial system is derived from the state Constitution: “The judicial power of this state shall be vested in one Supreme Court and in such Circuit, Chancery, and other Inferior Courts as the Legislature shall from time to time, ordain and establish...” (Article VI, Section 1, Constitution of the State of Tennessee).

Although not a part of the court system, the offices of the attorney general, district attorneys general, and district public defenders are associated with the judicial branch of state government. The attorney general represents the interests of the state in litigation. The district attorneys serve as prosecuting counsel in criminal cases. Public defenders and court-appointed private attorneys represent indigent defendants.

The Supreme Court is the highest court in the state. The five justices are nominated by the Governor’s Council for Judicial Appointments who, when there is a vacancy to be filled, accept applications from interested parties, interview the applicants, and then make a recommendation to the governor for consideration. This council was established by Executive Order No. 41 as a result of the constitutional amendment approved on November 4, 2014. Article VI, Section 3 of the Tennessee Constitution now states, “Judges of the Supreme Court or any intermediate appellate court shall be appointed for a full term or to fill a vacancy by and at the discretion of the governor; shall be confirmed by the Legislature; and thereafter, shall be elected in a retention election by the qualified voters of the state.” The majority of this court’s workload consists of cases appealed from lower state courts.

The Intermediate Appellate Courts—the Court of Appeals and Court of Criminal Appeals—hear civil and criminal cases appealed from the trial courts.

The state’s trial courts include Chancery, Criminal, Circuit, and Probate Courts. Judges in these courts are chosen by popular election within their judicial districts.

The fourth level of courts in Tennessee is composed of the Courts of Limited Jurisdiction—General Sessions, Juvenile, and Municipal Courts. These courts are funded by their respective counties.



TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT

Tennessee Supreme Court

Court of Appeals

Court of Criminal Appeals

Tennessee Courts

Supreme Court

401 Seventh Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37219-1407
(615) 741-2681
TNCourts.gov

The Tennessee Supreme Court is the state's highest court and the court of last resort. The court typically meets in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville, as required by the state constitution.

The five justices may accept appeals of civil and criminal cases from lower state courts. They also interpret the laws and constitutions of Tennessee and the United States. The Supreme Court may assume jurisdiction over undecided cases in the Court of Appeals or the Court of Criminal Appeals when there is special need for a speedy decision. The Court also has appellate jurisdiction in cases involving state taxes and the right to hold public office, and it issues rulings on constitutional law. The Court reviews all cases in which the defendant has been sentenced to death.

Attorneys may present oral arguments before the Supreme Court. Unlike trials in lower courts, there are no witnesses, juries, or testimony in the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, or Court



Supreme Court Justices

Pictured in the courtroom at the Supreme Court Building in Nashville are Justice Holly Kirby, Justice Cornelia A. Clark, Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee, and Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins.

of Criminal Appeals. After the Supreme Court justices have heard oral arguments and reviewed the attorneys' written materials or briefs, they issue written decisions called opinions. Tennessee Supreme Court opinions on federal constitutional issues can be appealed only to the U.S. Supreme Court, which may or may not agree to consider the appeals.

Judges of the Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, and Court of Criminal Appeals are elected every eight years. The constitution requires that no more than two justices reside in any single grand division of the state.

Chief Justice Sharon G. Lee

505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1953, Knoxville; two children; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1975; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978; graduate, New York University Appellate Judges Program; private practice, Madisonville, 1978–2004; former County Attorney for Monroe County; City Judge for Madisonville; City Attorney for Vonore and Madisonville; Rule 31–listed family mediator; former adjunct faculty, University of Tennessee College of Law; member: Tennessee Bar Association (House of Delegates); American Bar Foundation; Tennessee Bar Foundation; Knoxville Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference (executive committee); Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women (director); East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women (president); Monroe County Bar Association (president, vice president, and secretary); National Association of Women Judges (director); Knoxville Executive Women's Association (secretary); Boys & Girls Club–Monroe Area (board of directors, 2007–2012); YWCA Knoxville (board of directors); Sequoyah Birthplace Museum (board of directors); East Tennessee Historical Society (board of directors); and Congressional Medal of Honor Convention Committee (honorary member); Tennessee College of Law, Dean's Circle; recipient of the Chief Justice William M. Barker Equal Access to Justice Award; the University of Tennessee Alumni Professional Achievement Award; the Lizzie Crozier French Award from the East Tennessee Women's Leadership Council; the Webb School of Knoxville Distinguished Alumni Award; the Spotlight Award from the National Association of Women Judges; and the Spirit of Justice Award from the East Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women; recognized as a Woman of Achievement by the Girl Scouts Council for the Southern Appalachians; honoree of Tribute to Women by YWCA Knoxville; co-author of *Opening and Closing Arguments*; appointed to Tennessee Court of Appeals, Eastern Section, June 4, 2004; elected August 2004; reelected August 2006; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court October 2, 2008; elected August 2010; reelected August 2014; elected Chief Justice September 2014 and September 2015.

Justice Jeffrey S. Bivins

221 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1960, Kingsport; married; two children; Independent Christian; Lynn View High School, 1978; B.A., magna cum laude, East Tennessee State University, 1982; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1986; private practice, Boulton, Cummings, Conners & Berry, Nashville, 1986–1995 and 2001–2005; assistant commissioner and general counsel, Tennessee Department of Personnel, 1996–1999 and 2000–2001; appointed to Circuit Court, 21st Judicial District, by Governor Don Sundquist, 1999; appointed to Circuit Court, 21st Judicial District, by Governor Phil Bredesen, 2005; elected 2006; former member: Tennessee Judicial Evaluation Commission; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary; and Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct; member: John Marshall American

Inn of Court; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court; American Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Association; Williamson County Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Foundation; American Bar Foundation; Nashville Bar Foundation; and Tennessee Judicial Conference (president-elect; co-chairman, compensation and retirement committee; member, executive committee); board member, Education Foundation of Williamson County; former County Commissioner, Williamson County; former member, Williamson County Library Board of Trustees; former softball coach and board member, Girls Softball Association of Franklin; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam August 2011; elected 2012; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Haslam July 2014.

Justice Cornelia A. Clark

318 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1950, Franklin; United Methodist; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1971; M.A.T., Harvard University, 1972; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1979; articles editor and editorial board member, *Vanderbilt Law Review*; graduate, National Judicial College and New York University Appellate Judges Program; private practice, Farris, Warfield & Kanaday, 1979–1989; board member, United Methodist Publishing House, 2008–2020 (vice chairman, 2012–2016); past board member: Lawyers' Association for Women, Marion Griffin Chapter; Nashville Bar Association (second vice president); Williamson County Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Association; American Bar Association; Tennessee Lawyers Association for Women (founding member); National Association of Women Judges; American Judicature Society; member of Nashville, Tennessee, and American Bar foundations (past chairman, Tennessee Bar Foundation); YWCA of Nashville and Middle Tennessee (past president); Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, Inc.; American Bar Association Commission on the American Jury, 2004; past faculty member: American Institute for Justice, Inc.; American Academy of Judicial Education; and National Judicial College; former adjunct professor, Vanderbilt University School of Law; chairman, Tennessee Judicial Council, 2006–2010; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court; Tennessee John Marshall American Inn of Court; dean, Tennessee Judicial Academy, 1997–1998; board of directors, Conference of State Court Administrators, 2004–2005; vice president, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1997–1998; Franklin Tomorrow, Inc. (co-chairman, inaugural steering committee); chairman, City of Franklin Charter Revision Committee, 2004; chairman, City of Franklin Land Use Plan Steering Committee, 2002–2003; previous member, Supreme Court Commissions on the Rules of Civil Procedure and Technology; inductee, Nashville YWCA Academy for Women of Achievement, 2010; SEABOTA Appellate Judge of the Year, 2010; Patrons Award, Heritage Foundation of Franklin and Williamson County, 2006; Liberty Bell Award, Williamson County Bar Association, 2005; appointed Circuit Judge, 21st Judicial District, October 1989; elected August 1990; reelected August 1998; appointed administrative director of the Tennessee Courts May 1999; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court September 2005; elected August 2006; reelected August 2014; elected Chief Justice September 2010–September 2012.

Justice Holly Kirby

100 Peabody Place, Memphis, TN 38103

Born 1957, Memphis; married; two children; Presbyterian; Columbia Central High School, Columbia; B.S. in mechanical engineering, University of Memphis, 1979 (magna cum laude, Herff and Honors Alumni Scholarship); J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1982 (Herff

Scholarship; Law Review, notes editor); admitted to Bar in 1982; law clerk to the Honorable Harry W. Wellford, Sixth Circuit, U.S. Court of Appeals, 1982–1983; practiced law in Memphis, 1983–1995 (first female partner in law firm Burch, Porter & Johnson); Tennessee Appellate Court Nominating Commission, 1989–1994 (chairperson, 1994); Leo Bearman, Sr., American Inn of Court, 1995–1998; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary (special panel), 1998–2012; Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct, 2012–2014; Tennessee Judicial Conference executive committee, 2014–present; Tennessee Three Branches Institute; Council of State Governments (Juvenile Justice Forum, Interbranch Committee); University of Memphis School of Law Advisory Board; member: American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, Memphis Bar Association, Tennessee Lawyers' Association for Women, Memphis Association for Women Attorneys and Federalist Society; fellow, American Bar Foundation; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; fellow, Memphis Bar Foundation; University of Memphis Award for Outstanding Young Alumnus, 1996; University of Memphis College of Engineering Outstanding Alumnus, 2002; Association for Women Attorneys' Marion Griffin-Frances Loring Award, 2015; Tennessee Justice Center Community Mother of the Year Award, 2015; appointed to Tennessee Court of Appeals in 1995 by Governor Don Sundquist (first woman ever to serve on Court of Appeals); won statewide retention elections in 1996, 1998, 2006, and 2014; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court by Governor Bill Haslam (first University of Memphis graduate to serve on Tennessee Supreme Court), 2014.

Justice Gary R. Wade (Retired September 8, 2015)

505 Main Street, Suite 200, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1948, Knox County; married; three children; four grandchildren; Methodist; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1970; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1973; private practice of law, 1973–1987; University of Tennessee Chancellor's Associates, 1988–1991; University of Tennessee College of Arts and Sciences Board of Visitors; University of Tennessee College of Law Dean's Circle; University of Tennessee Development Council; Tennessee Bar Association; American Bar Association; Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers; American Inns of Court; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Sentencing Commission, 1990–1994; Executive Committee, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1990–1997; president, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1995–1996; president, Eta South Province, Phi Delta Theta Fraternity, 1990–1997; past president, Sevierville Lions Club; chairman, Sevier County Heart Association, 1984–1986; American Heart Association Presidential Award, 1987; Key to the City of Sevierville, 1987; Sevierville Chamber of Commerce Award, 1987; Mountain Press Mover and Shaker of the Year, 1983–1985 and 1997; Gary R. Wade Boulevard, 1987; mayor, City of Sevierville, 1977–1987; honorary chairman, Boys & Girls Club of the Smoky Mountains, 1996 Financial Campaign; United Way of Greater Knoxville Campaign Cabinet, Board of Directors, 1997; Tennessee's Resource Valley, Board of Directors; chairman emeritus, Friends of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park (president, 1993–2005; board chairman, 2005–2006); Leadership Knoxville Class of 1995–1996; Leadership Sevier Class of 1997; president, Leadership Sevier Board of Directors, 2001; Knoxville Zoological Gardens Board of Directors, 2000–2006 (vice chairman, 2002–2004; chairman, 2005–2006); Citizen of the Year, Sevierville Chamber of Commerce, 2004; Appellate Judge of the Year, American Board of Trial Advocates, 2004; Knoxville Bar Association Judicial Excellence Award, 2004; East Tennessee Regional Leadership Award, 2006; president, Walters State Community College Foundation Board of Trustees, 2005–2006; Pellissippi State Technical Community College President's Associates; Board of Directors, East Tennessee Historical

Society; United States Department of Interior Citizens Award for Exceptional Service, 2007; Appellate Judge of the Year, Southeastern Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, 2014; TBA Frank F. Drowota, III, Outstanding Judicial Service Award, 2014; appointed to Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals 1987; elected 1988; reelected 1990 and 1998; Presiding Judge, 1998–2006; appointed to Tennessee Supreme Court May 30, 2006; elected 2008 and 2014; Chief Justice, September 2012–August 2014.

Intermediate Appellate Courts, Court of Appeals

Created by the General Assembly in 1925, the Court of Appeals hears appeals in civil—or non-criminal—cases from trial courts and certain state boards and commissions. The court has twelve members who sit in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville. All decisions made by the Court of Appeals may be appealed, by permission, to the Tennessee Supreme Court. As in all three appellate courts, Court of Appeals hearings do not include witnesses, juries, or testimonies. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.

Court of Appeals judges are elected on a “retain-replace” ballot every eight years.



Court of Appeals judges (seated from left), Frank G. Clement, Jr., Charles D. Susano, Jr., J. Steven Stafford. (Standing from left) Arnold B. Goldin, Thomas R. Frierson, II, Richard H. Dinkins, D. Michael Swiney, Andy D. Bennett, John Westley McClarty, W. Neal McBrayer, Brandon O. Gibson, and Kenny Armstrong

Western Section

Kenny W. Armstrong

100 Peabody Place, Suite 1145, Memphis, TN 38103

Born 1948, Munford; married; two children; Methodist; George Ellis High School, Munford; B.S. in electrical engineering, Tennessee State University, 1970; J.D., Duke University School of Law, 1973; Assistant U.S. Attorney, Department of Justice, 1973–1974; Captain, Judge Advocate, U.S. Air Force, 1974–1978; private practice, 1978–1996; Clerk and Master, Shelby County Chancery Court, 1997–2006; elected Chancellor, Part III, Shelby County Chancery Court, 2006–2014; appointed to Court of Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in 2014.

Brandon O. Gibson

6 Highway 45 Bypass, Jackson, TN 38302

Born 1975, Dyersburg; married; one child; Baptist; Dyersburg High School, 1993; B.S. in agribusiness, summa cum laude, Mississippi State University, 1996; M.A. in agribusiness management, summa cum laude, Mississippi State University, 1997; J.D., Southern Methodist University School of Law, 2000; admitted to State Bar of Texas, 2000 and Tennessee Bar, 2001; practiced law in Tyler, TX, 2000–2001 and Jackson, Tenn., 2001–2014; Tennessee Bar Association Leadership Law Class of 2012; Tennessee Post-Conviction Defender Oversight Commission, 2011–2013; Howell Edmunds Jackson American Inn of Court; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2014; appointed to Tennessee Court of Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in 2013 for a term that began September 1, 2014.

Arnold B. Goldin

100 Peabody Place, Suite 1155, Memphis, TN 38103

Born 1949, Richmond, Va.; married; two children; four grandchildren; Jewish; John Marshall High School, Richmond, Va., 1967; B.A., University of Virginia, 1971; J.D., Memphis State University (University of Memphis), 1974; private practice, 1974–2002; *The Best Lawyers In America*, 1995–Judicial Appointment; Martindale-Hubbell Law Directory: AV rating, 1986–present; member, Governor’s Commission on Tort Reform, 1986–1987; charter member, Tennessee Bar Foundation IOLTA Grant Review Commission, 1987–1989; member, Tennessee Supreme Court Commission On Dispute Resolution, 1992–1995; chair, Civil Justice Reform Act Advisory Group, United States District Court, Western District of Tennessee, 1995–1999; appointed to Chancery Court, 30th Judicial District by Governor Don Sundquist, 2002; elected August 2004 in county-wide general election to fill unexpired term as Chancellor; reelected for full term in August 2006; recipient of 2004 Chancellor Charles A. Rond “Judge of The Year Award” presented by the Young Lawyers Division of the Memphis Bar Association; Tennessee Judicial Conference; American Inns of Court, Leo Bearman, Sr., Chapter, 2002–2006; fellow, Memphis Bar Foundation; appointed to Court of Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in August 2013 for term beginning September 1, 2014.

J. Steven Stafford

100 Main Avenue North, Suite 4, Dyersburg, TN 38024

Born 1956, McKenzie; married; two children; Baptist; B.S., University of Tennessee at Martin; first Harry S. Truman Scholar in Tennessee, 1977; J.D., Samford University Cumberland School of Law, 1983; admitted to Bar, 1983; practiced law in Dyersburg, 1983–1993; Dyersburg City Judge, 1988–1993; Dyer County Juvenile Court Judge, 1993–1994; president, Dyer County Bar Association, 1987; member, Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association House of Delegates, 1991–1998; Tennessee Bar Association Board of Governors, 2002–2003; member, American Bar Association; fellow, American Bar Foundation; president, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 2002–2003; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 1999–2012 (presiding judge, 2004–2007); dean, Tennessee Judicial Academy, 1998–2009; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation; chairman, Board of Trustees, 2008–2009; selected Judge of the Year by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates, 2007; Howell Edmunds Jackson American Inn of Court; appointed Chancellor of the 29th Judicial District June 1993; elected August 1994; reelected August 1998 and August 2006; appointed to the Court of Appeals June 2008; elected August 2008; reelected August 2014.

Middle Section

Andy D. Bennett

218 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1957, Charlotte; married; one child; Methodist; Dickson County Senior High School, Dickson (valedictorian and Gold Medalist); B.A., cum laude, Vanderbilt University, 1979; J.D., Vanderbilt School of Law, 1982 (awarded the Weldon White Prize for the best paper on a Tennessee subject); Assistant Attorney General, 1982–1986; Deputy Attorney General, 1986–1993; Associate Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1993–1997; Chief Deputy Attorney General, 1997–2007; member, Tennessee Historical Society; Tennessee Bar Association; Board of Directors, Tennessee Bicentennial Foundation, 1993–1997; Tennessee Supreme Court Commission on Dispute Resolution, 1992–1994; president, Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society, 2005–2007; author of several legal and historical articles, including “The History of the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office” (*Tennessee Bar Journal*, 2000) and “Guarding FDR: A Tennessean’s Experience” (*Tennessee Historical Quarterly*, 2006); William M. Leech, Jr., Award for outstanding service to the Tennessee Attorney General’s Office, 1998; Marvin Award from the National Association of Attorneys General for “outstanding leadership, expertise, and achievement in advancing the goals of the National Association of Attorneys General,” 2004; fellow, “Outstanding Mentor” Award from Belmont College of Law American Inn of Court, 2015; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2001; founder, Tennessee Judiciary Museum, 2012; master, Belmont University College of Law American Inn of Court, 2011–2015; Board of Directors, Tennessee Supreme Court Historical Society; Friends of the Tennessee Library and Archives; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals September 2007; elected August 2008; reelected August 2014.

Frank G. Clement, Jr.

215 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1949, Nashville; married; one child; four stepchildren; six grandchildren; West End United Methodist Church; B.S.E., University of Memphis, 1972; president, Student Government Association, 1972; governor, Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature, 1972; 164th Military Airlift Group, Tennessee Air National Guard, 1968–1974; J.D., Nashville School of Law, 1979; president, Nashville Kiwanis Club, 1987–1988; chairman, Nashville Area Chapter and Tennessee Valley Blood Region, American Red Cross, 1989–1991; private practice, 1979–1995; board of directors, Nashville Bar Association, 1991–1995; president, Nashville Bar Association, 1995; Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, 1990–2001; Leadership Nashville, 1995; fellow, Tennessee and Nashville Bar foundations; member, Tennessee and Nashville Bar associations; treasurer, Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1997–2002; chairman, Tennessee Judicial Conference Convention, 1998; recognized as Appellate Judge of the Year for 2012 by the Tennessee Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates; appointed Judge of the Probate Court, 20th Judicial District, 1995; elected Judge of Division VII of the Circuit Court, 20th Judicial District, 1996; reelected 1998; appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Phil Bredesen September 2003; elected August 2004; reelected August 2006 and August 2014; Board of Trustees, Nashville School of Law, 2006–present; Board of Trustees, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2014–present.

Richard H. Dinkins

401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1952, Nashville; Baptist; B.A., Denison University, Granville, Oh., 1974; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1977; associate, Law Firm of the Honorable Avon N. Williams, Jr., 1977–1980; partner, Williams and Dinkins, 1981–1999; member, Dodson, Parker, Dinkins & Behm, P.C., 1999–2003; member, Napier-Looby Bar Association (board of directors, 1981–1983; vice president, 1984; president, 1985); former cooperating attorney, NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund; former cooperating attorney, Minority Business Enterprise Legal Defense and Educational Fund; former member, Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association Board of Governors; member, board of directors, Nashville Bar Association, 1988–1991; former member, Commercial Law Section, National Bar Association; barrister, Harry Phillips American Inn of Court, 1990–2002 (master, 2005–present); member, board of directors, Nashville Bar Association, 2006–2008; fellow, Tennessee Bar Association Foundation; appointed Chancellor, Davidson County Chancery Court, Part IV, September 26, 2003; elected May 2004; reelected August 2006; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals January 14, 2008; elected August 2008; reelected August 2014.

W. Neal McBrayer

203 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1963, Atlanta, Ga.; married; Southern Baptist; Maryville High School, 1982; B.A., magna cum laude, Maryville College, 1986; J.D., Marshall-Wythe School of Law, College of William & Mary, 1989; private practice, Trabue, Sturdivant & DeWitt, 1989–1998; Miller & Martin, PLLC, 1999–2012; and Butler Snow, LLP, 2012–2014; member: Belmont University College of Law American Inn of Court, American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Association, and Nashville Bar Association; fellow, American Bar Foundation and Nashville Bar Foundation; delegate, Tennessee Bar Association House of Delegates, 2001–2015; member, City of Brentwood Planning Commission, 2009–2014; former president, Mid-South Commercial Law Institute, 2011–2012; co-author, *Tennessee Secured Transactions Under Revised Article 9 of the Uniform Commercial Code: Forms and Practice Manual*; appointed to the Court of Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in August 2013 for a term that started May 2014; elected 2014.

Eastern Section

Thomas R. Frierson, II

505 Main Street, Suite 317, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1958, Morristown; married, Jane; three children, Reagan, Parker, and Garrett; First United Methodist Church of Morristown; B.A., University of Tennessee, Phi Beta Kappa, 1980; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1983; admitted to Bar, 1983; practiced law at Bacon, Dugger, Jessee, Perkins in Morristown, 1983–1990; Municipal Court Judge, Morristown, 1990–1996; General Sessions Court Judge, Hamblen County, 1990–1996; appointed Chancellor, 3rd Judicial District, by Governor Don Sundquist, March 1996; elected August 1996; reelected August 1998 and August 2006; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals February 7, 2013 by Governor Bill Haslam; elected August 2014; ABOTA Trial Judge of the Year, 2000; elected member, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2007; president, Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 2007–2009; president, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 2010–2011; member: Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Judicial Conference, and Tennessee Judicial Ethics Committee, 1993–2013; chairman, Tennessee

Judicial Family Institute; Morristown West High School Hall of Fame, 2014; Eagle Scout; speaker at judicial conferences and bar associations.

John W. McClarty

633 Chestnut Street, Suite 1560, P.O. Box 11481, Chattanooga, TN 37450

Born 1948, Chattanooga; single; two sons, two stepdaughters; African Methodist Episcopal; Howard High School, Chattanooga, 1967; bachelor's degree with double majors in political science and history, Austin Peay State University, 1971; J.D. with honors, Southern University School of Law, 1976 (ranking No. 5 in his class); recognized as a Distinguished Legal Scholar by Delta Theta Phi Law Fraternity; member, Law Review staff, serving as articles editor and was author of a comment: "Felony Murder Rule in Louisiana," published Vol. I, No. II SULR; admitted to Tennessee Bar, 1976; private practice, associate, law office of Jerry Summers, 1976; opened sole practice in 1978; senior partner in McClarty & Williams with Walter F. Williams, 1980–1991; sole practice, 1991–January 2009; involved in excess of 5,000 civil and criminal cases during thirty-two years of practice; *Who's Who in American Law*, Fourth Edition, 1986; Martindale-Hubbell AV rating, 2001; hearing committee member, Supreme Court Board of Professional Responsibility, 2001–2009; board certified civil trial specialist by the National Board of Trial Advocacy and certified civil trial specialist by the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and Specialization; appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen to serve as board member and later chairman of the Tennessee Registry of Election Finance, May 2005–2007; member, American Board of Trial Advocacy, 2008; fellow, American College of Trial Lawyers, 2009; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, 2011; appointed by Governor Phil Bredesen as Judge of Tennessee Court of Appeals, Eastern Section (first African-American State Judge serving in East Tennessee), January 14, 2009; elected to Tennessee Court of Appeals, August 2010, on retention ballot (making him the first African American from East Tennessee to be elected to a statewide position); reelected for a full eight-year term on retention ballot in August 2014.

Charles D. Susano, Jr.

505 Main Street, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37901

Born 1936, Knoxville; married; three children; Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church; Bachelor of Philosophy in Commerce (accounting), magna cum laude, University of Notre Dame, 1958; U.S. Army, 1958–1960; J.D., University of Tennessee, 1963; member, Order of the Coif; Tennessee Law Review; admitted to Bar, 1964; law clerk to Supreme Court, 1963–1964; Assistant District Attorney General, Knox County, 1967–1968; chairman, Knox County Democratic Party, 1972–1974; member, State Democratic Executive Committee, 1974–1982; practiced law in Knoxville, 1964–1994; Tennessee Judicial Conference (executive committee, 1995–1999; treasurer, 1998–1999); Court of the Judiciary, 1999–2003; Notre Dame Man of the Year Award, 1983; ABOTA Appellate Judge of the Year Award, 2003; Knoxville Bar Association Courage in the Face of Adversity Award, 2004; disABILITY Resource Center Spirit of the ADA Award, 2007; book editor, *Remembering U.S. District Judge Robert L. Taylor*; member, the Rogers Foundation Board of Directors; fellow, American Bar Foundation and Tennessee Bar Foundation; appointed to Court of Appeals March 1994; elected August 1994; reelected August 1998, August 2006, and August 2014; elected Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals January 2013.

D. Michael Swiney

505 Main Street, Suite 200, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1949, Sarasota, Fla.; married; two children, Gabe and Eli; Church Street United Methodist Church; B.S., 1971, M.S., 1974, and J.D., 1978, University of Tennessee; member, Order of the Coif; admitted to Bar, 1979; practiced law in Knoxville, 1979–1999; adjunct professor, University of Tennessee College of Law, 1997–2006; Hamilton Burnett Chapter, American Inns of Court, 1991–present; Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 2003–2011; appointed to the Tennessee Court of Appeals July 1999; elected 2000; reelected 2006 and 2014.

Court of Criminal Appeals

The Court of Criminal Appeals was created by the Legislature in 1967 to hear trial court appeals in felony and misdemeanor cases, as well as post-conviction petitions. The Tennessee General Assembly increased the membership of the court from nine to twelve on September 1, 1996. The members sit monthly in panels of three in Jackson, Knoxville, and Nashville. They may also meet in other locations as necessary.

All Court of Criminal Appeals decisions may be appealed to the state Supreme Court by permission, except in direct appeals of capital cases, which are appealed automatically. No witnesses, juries, or testimonies are present in the Court of Criminal Appeals. Instead, attorneys present oral and written arguments.

Court of Criminal Appeals judges are elected on a statewide ballot every eight years.



Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals judges are (seated from left) Norma McGee Ogle, James Curwood Witt, Jr., Presiding Judge Thomas T. Woodall, John Everett Williams, Alan E. Glenn; (standing from left) Robert H. Montgomery, Jr., Roger A. Page, D. Kelly Thomas, Jr., Robert W. Wedemeyer, Camille R. McMullen, Robert L. Holloway, Jr., and Timothy L. Easter.

Western Section

John Everett Williams

115 Court Square, P.O. Box 88, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Born 1953, Milan; one son; Methodist; Huntingdon High School; B.S. in criminal justice, University of Tennessee at Martin; J.D., Cumberland School of Law, 1981; private practice, Williams

& Williams Attorneys at Law, Huntingdon, 1981–1998; member, Tennessee Bar Association; Tennessee Trial Lawyers Association; Carroll County Bar Association (past president, 1981–1984); Huntingdon Jaycees’ Outstanding Chairperson; Huntingdon Lions Club (past president, 1991–1992); American Heart Association; American Cancer Society; American Red Cross; Carroll County Habitat for Humanity; Carroll County Ducks Unlimited; Cumberland School of Law’s co-chairman, Cordell Hull’s Speakers’ Forum and Director of Special Programs; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals November 1998; elected to eight-year terms August 2006 and 2014.

Alan E. Glenn

5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1414, Memphis, TN 38157

Born 1942, Chicago, Ill.; married; one child; Montgomery Bell Academy; B.A., 1965, J.D., 1968, Vanderbilt University; law clerk, U.S. District Judge, Memphis; Assistant U.S. Attorney, 1970–1971; Assistant District Attorney General, 1971–1982; private practice, Memphis, 1982–1999; instructor, Trial Advocacy, Harvard Law School, 1986–1999; lecturer, National College of District Attorneys, 1982–1986; arbitrator, American Arbitration Association, 1985–1999; member, Board of Construction Advisors, American Arbitration Association, 1995–1999; president, National Ornamental Metal Museum, 1996–2005; president, Memphis Arts in the Park Festival, 1997–1998; vice president, Theatre Memphis, 1995–1997; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals April 1999; elected in 2000, 2006, and 2014.

Camille R. McMullen

5050 Poplar Avenue, Suite 1416, Memphis, TN 38157

Born 1971, Nashville; married; two children; St. Andrews African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Memphis; John Overton High School, Nashville, 1989; B.S., political science, Austin Peay State University, 1993 (magna cum laude, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Honors Scholarships); J.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1996; received the following honors: Dean’s List, McClure International Fellowship, Order of the Barristers, and Ray Jenkins Trial Semi-Finalist; clerk for the Republic of South Africa, post-apartheid; admitted to Tennessee Bar, 1997; law clerk to the Honorable Joe G. Riley, Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals, 1996–1997; Assistant District Attorney General, Shelby County, 1997–2001; Assistant United States Attorney, United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee, 2001–2008; member, Tennessee, Memphis, and National Bar associations; National Association of Women Judges; American Inns of Court; fellow, Memphis Bar Association; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Phil Bredesen in 2008, becoming the first African-American woman to serve on the Court of Criminal Appeals.

Roger A. Page

Supreme Court Building, P.O. Box 909, Jackson, TN 38302

Born 1955, Henderson; married to Carol McCoy, Davidson County Chancery Court Judge; two sons; three grandchildren; Southern Baptist; Chester County High School, 1973; University of Tennessee College of Pharmacy, with honors, 1978; J.D., University of Memphis, with high honors, 1984; Law Review articles editor; law clerk, Honorable Julia Smith Gibbons, Western District of Tennessee, U.S. District Court, 1984–1985; private practice, Peterson, Young, Self & Asselin, Atlanta, Ga., 1985–1987, and Holmes, Rich, Sigler & Page, Jackson, Tenn., 1987–1992; Assistant Attorney General, 1992–1998; elected to Circuit Court, 26th Judicial District, 1998; reelected 2006; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in December 2011; elected

2012, reelected to eight-year term in 2014; Tennessee Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference, executive committee member, legislative committee (co-chair), compensation and retirement committee, past chairperson of bench-bar committee; Tennessee Appellate Judge Performance Evaluation Commission, 2004–2009; Jackson/Madison County Bar Association; Howell Jackson American Inn of Court; member and past president, Jackson Lions Club; Dixie Youth baseball coach; Senior Olympics Softball, City Champions.

Middle Section

Robert L. Holloway, Jr.

418 W. Seventh Street, Columbia, TN 38401

Born 1952, Florence, Ala.; married; five children; Presbyterian; Columbia Central High School, 1970; B.A., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1978; clerk for Honorable James Parrot, Eastern Section Court of Appeals, 1978–1979; private practice, Lovell, Holloway, and Sands, Columbia, 1979–1981; Fleming, Holloway, Flynn, and Sands, Columbia, 1981–1998; appointed to Circuit Court, 22nd Judicial District, by Governor Don Sundquist in May 1998; elected circuit judge, 22nd Judicial District, August 1998, 2006, and 2014; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam in August 2014; Tennessee Bar Association; president, Maury County Bar Association, 1990; American Bar Association, Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference (president, 2012–2013; president-elect, 2011–2012; treasurer, 2009–2010; member, executive committee, 2009–2010, 2011–2014); past chairman, legislative committee; member, compensation and retirement committee; member, criminal pattern jury instructions committee); trial judge delegate to American Bar Association, 2008–2010; Scout Master BSA Troop 111, 1979–2015; Kiwanis Club of Columbia (president, 1994–1995).

Timothy Lee Easter

200 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219

Born 1960, Montgomery County, Va.; married, Colette R. Easter; two daughters, Amy Clayton and Emily; Harpeth Hills Church of Christ; David Lipscomb High School, Nashville, Tenn.; B.A., Lipscomb University, 1982; J.D., Nashville School of Law, 1989; assistant district attorney, 21st Judicial District, 1989–1994; private practice, Rogers & Easter, 1994–1998; adjunct professor, Lipscomb University, 2012–present; member, Williamson County Bar Association, 1989–present; recipient of WCBA Liberty Bell Award, 2009; member, Tennessee Bar Association, 1994–present; fellow, Tennessee Bar Foundation, Class of 2009; current Master of the Bench/past President, Tennessee John Marshall Inns of Court; Leadership Brentwood, Class of 2000; Board of Directors, Brentwood YMCA, 2012–present; Tennessee Association of Drug Court Professionals; National Association of Drug Court Professionals; Board of Directors, 21st Drug Court, Inc., 2001–present; Tennessee Judicial Conference, 1998–present: vice president (current), secretary (2009–2010), Committee on Compensation and Retirement (2008–present), Criminal Pattern Jury Instructions Committee (1998–present), Drug Court Committee, Legislative Committee; TN Trial Judge Delegate, American Bar Association, 2010–2011; Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1998–2014; vice chairman, Tennessee Board of Judicial Conduct, 2012–2014; former member and Paul Harris Fellow, Brentwood Rotary Club (Friday Lunch). Appointed Circuit Court Judge, 21st Judicial District, by Governor Don Sundquist, January 1989; elected 1998; reelected 2006 and 2014. Appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Bill Haslam, September 1, 2014.

Thomas T. Woodall*P.O. Box 1075, Dickson, TN 37056*

Born 1955, Nashville; two children; Presbyterian; Battle Ground Academy; B.S., Tennessee Technological University; J.D., University of Memphis; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1981; member, Tennessee Court of the Judiciary, 2003–2011; member, Tennessee and Dickson County Bar associations; Tennessee Judicial Conference; First Presbyterian Church of Dickson; “City of Dickson 100 Years Celebration” committee, 1999; co-chairman, Dickson County American Cancer Society Relay for Life event, 2005; former chairman, Benton County Unit of American Heart Association; former member, board of directors, Dickson County Habitat for Humanity, Inc.; board of directors, Dickson Help Center; law clerk for the Honorable Mark Walker, Presiding Judge, Court of Criminal Appeals, 1981–1982; private practice, Shelby County, 1982–1984; Assistant District Attorney General, 24th Judicial District, Huntingdon, 1984–1990; private practice, Dickson, 1990–November 1996; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals December 1996; elected to eight-year terms August 1998, 2006, and 2014.

Robert W. Wedemeyer*211 Supreme Court Building, 401 Seventh Avenue North, Nashville, TN 37219*

Born 1951, Nashville; married to Patricia T. Wedemeyer, professional harpist; three children; two stepchildren; eight grandchildren; resides in Nashville; Oak Ridge High School, 1969; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1973; J.D., University of Memphis School of Law, 1976; private law practice, Cunningham, Mitchell, Hicks & Wedemeyer, 1977–1984; Wedemeyer & Grimes, 1985–1990; appointed to Circuit Court for the 19th Judicial District (Montgomery and Robertson counties) by Governor Ned R. McWherter, 1990; elected in 1990 and reelected in 1998; appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals by Governor Don Sundquist in 2000; elected in 2000; reelected in 2006 and 2014; member, Tennessee Bar Association, Nashville Bar Association, Robertson County Bar Association, and Montgomery County Bar Association (president, 1981); fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation; former little league baseball coach, youth soccer coach, and YMCA youth basketball coach; past president, Montgomery County Chapter of American Red Cross; graduate, Leadership Clarksville, 1988; served as deacon, elder, and stewardship chairman, First Presbyterian Church of Clarksville; former adjunct professor at Austin Peay State University, Clarksville; long-standing member of the National Commodore Club.

Eastern Section**Robert H. Montgomery, Jr.***505 Main Street, P.O. Box 444, Knoxville, TN 37902*

Born 1953, Kingsport; married; one child; United Methodist; Dobyns-Bennett High School, Kingsport, 1971; B.A., Vanderbilt University, 1975; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1979; private practice, Kingsport, 1979–1985; Tennessee Unemployment Appeals Referee, 1985–1986; Assistant District Attorney General, Sullivan County, 2nd Judicial District, 1986–2006; elected 2006, Sullivan County Criminal Court Judge, 2nd Judicial District; appointed to the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Section, by Governor Bill Haslam, 2013; Kingsport Bar Association; Tennessee Bar Association (former member of Board of Governors); Tennessee Bar Foundation; Tennessee Judicial Conference (member, executive committee; member, criminal pattern jury instructions committee); former member and chair, Kingsport Public Library Commission; former

member and chair, Watauga Regional Library; former member and president, Kingsport Jaycees; former member and president, Tri-Cities Rotary Club.

James Curwood Witt, Jr.

505 Main Street, Suite 356, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1948, Knoxville; married; four children; Methodist; Madisonville High School, 1966; associate degree, Hiwassee College, 1968; bachelor's degree, Tennessee Wesleyan College, 1970; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1973; Order of the Coif; Tennessee Law Review; member, Tennessee and Monroe County Bar associations; president, Monroe County Bar Association, 1977; judge, Monroe County Juvenile Court, 1979–1982; Tennessee Council of Juvenile Court Judges, 1979–1982; hearing committee member, Board of Professional Responsibility, 1986–1992; member, Tennessee Judicial Council, 1980–1988; chairman, board of trustees, Emory & Henry College, Tennessee Wesleyan College, and Hiwassee College, 1987–1990; member, Holston Conference (United Methodist Church) Board of Trustees, 1995; president, Boys & Girls Club of the Monroe Area, Tennessee, Inc., 1996; presenter, Phi Theta Kappa, Tennessee Regional Honors Institute, 1995; member, Tennessee Bar Foundation; adjunct professor of law, U.T. College of Law; faculty, Tennessee Judicial Academy; appointed to Court of Criminal Appeals January 1997; elected to eight-year terms August 1998, 2006, and 2014.

Norma McGee Ogle

505 Main Street, Suite 350, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1952, Lawrenceburg; married; one child; Methodist; Loretto High School; B.S., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1977; admitted to practice law in Tennessee, 1977; member: Tennessee Bar Association, Sevier County Bar Association, and Knoxville Bar Association; commissioner and chairperson, Tennessee Human Rights Commission, 1995–1998; member, State of Tennessee Local Planning Advisory board, 1997–1998; member and chairperson, Sevier County Board of Education, 1982–1994; advisory board, Walters State Community College, 1997–present; Pigeon Forge City Attorney, 1990–1998; Pittman Center City Attorney; Sevier County Library Foundation; Memphis Area Legal Services, 1977–1979; private practice, 1979–1998; appointed to Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals 1998; elected 2000; reelected 2006.

D. Kelly Thomas, Jr.

505 Main Street, Suite 334, Knoxville, TN 37902

Born 1952, Maryville; married; Maryville High School; B.A., University of Tennessee, 1974; J.D., University of Tennessee, 1977; admitted to Tennessee Bar, 1978; partner, Thomas & Thomas, 1978–1987; associate, Thomas & Cunningham, 1987–1990; elected Circuit Court Judge, 5th Judicial District, Division II, 1990; reelected 1998 and 2006; appointed Court of Criminal Appeals Judge, Eastern Section, 2006; past president, Blount County Bar Association; faculty member, National Judicial College, University of Nevada, Reno, 1994–1999; East Tennessee representative, State–Federal Judicial Council Board of Directors, 1992; president, Tennessee Trial Judges Association, 1996–1998; Tennessee Judicial Conference executive committee, 1995–1996; ethics instructor: Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference, Tennessee Court Clerks Association Conference, and Tennessee Juvenile Association Conference, 1996, 1997, and 2000; East Tennessee

director, Tennessee Judicial Conference executive committee, 2002; president, Tennessee Judicial Conference, 2007; founding member, board of directors, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Blount County.

Senior Judges

Senior judges are appointed by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve two- or four-year terms. Retired trial or appellate court judges may be assigned on a temporary basis to any state court.

Don R. Ash

Jon Kerry Blackwood (Retired August 2015)

Ben H. Cantrell

Paul G. Summers

Administrative Office of the Courts

511 Union Street
Suite 600
Nashville, TN 37219
(615) 741-2687

Deborah Taylor Tate, Administrative Director

Born 1956, Columbia; hometown Murfreesboro; married; three children; B.S., University of Tennessee–Knoxville, 1977; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1980; Vanderbilt University Law School, 1979–1980; law clerk, assistant legal counsel, and senior policy advisor to Governor Lamar Alexander and Governor Don Sundquist; director, Health Facilities Commission; director and chairman, Tennessee Regulatory Authority; co-chair, NARUC Washington Action; liaison, Title 33 Commission and Juvenile Justice Commission; director, Vanderbilt Institute for Public Policy State and Local Policy Center; Rule 31–approved civil mediator; guardian ad litem and co-founder, Renewal House; president, CASA; fellow, Nashville Bar Foundation; adjunct lecturer, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Belmont University, and Lipscomb University; executive in residence, Andrews Institute on Public Policy; adjunct senior fellow, Free State Foundation; co-chair, National Healthy Media Commission, International Girls in ICT, International Women’s Forum, and Women Corporate Directors; board of directors, Healthstream, Inc.; Leadership Nashville, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Common Sense Media (National), Multicultural Media Telecom Internet Council (D.C.); Centerstone of TN; Centerstone Research Institute; two-time appointee by President George W. Bush to the Federal Communications Commission, Washington, D.C.; U.S. Rep. to the World Radio Communications Conference; U.S. Bilateral negotiator for communications; Special Laureate and Special Envoy to the International Telecommunications Union, Geneva; recognized as National Policymaker by the National Cable Association, National Broadcasters, Boy Scouts, and Common Sense Media; Mary Harriman Award, Association of Junior Leagues International; appointed Director of the AOC January 2015.



Appellate Court Clerks

Jim Hivner, Appellate Court Clerk
Joanne Newsome, Chief Deputy Clerk, Knoxville
Lisa Marsh, Chief Deputy Clerk, Nashville
Nancy A. Acred, Chief Deputy Clerk, Jackson

Jim Hivner

The Office of the Appellate Court Clerk is responsible for filing documents submitted by the parties with cases on appeal. The division where a case originates controls where the parties file their appeals. In capital cases, where all appeals have been exhausted and where the execution date has been set, all papers submitted in the Supreme Court are filed in the Middle Division.

In addition to cases on appeal, all Rules of Court, petitions for public response altering or amending the Rules of Court, and Supreme Court opinions are filed in the Middle Division. This division is responsible for matters before the Board of Judicial Conduct, Board of Law Examiners, Board of Professional Responsibility, and certified questions of law from federal courts.

The clerk of the appellate courts is appointed by the Supreme Court for a six-year term. The office is based in Nashville, which is in the Middle Division. The appellate court clerk oversees the offices in Knoxville, Nashville, and Jackson. Each office also has a chief deputy clerk.



Trial Court Clerks

Trial Court clerks are responsible for maintaining dockets and records and handling administrative matters in their courts. The clerks also serve as judicial system goodwill ambassadors since they have daily interaction with the public.

Circuit Court clerks, elected in each county for four-year terms, also serve as General Sessions Court clerks in counties without designated General Sessions Court clerks. Clerks are also elected in counties with Probate and Criminal Courts. Each Chancery Court is served by a clerk and master, who is appointed by the Chancery Court judges for a six-year term.

State Trial Courts

Tennessee's ninety-five counties are divided into thirty-one judicial districts. Within each district are Circuit Courts and Chancery Courts, as provided by the State Constitution. Some districts also have legislatively established Criminal Courts and Probate Courts. Judges of these courts are elected to eight-year terms.

Circuit Courts are courts of general jurisdiction in Tennessee. Circuit judges hear civil and criminal cases and appeals of decisions from City, Juvenile, Municipal, and General Sessions courts. The jurisdiction of Circuit Courts often overlaps that of the Chancery Courts.

Chancery Courts are a good example of the court system's English heritage. These traditional equity courts are based on the English system, in which the chancellor acted as the "King's conscience." Chancellors may, by law and tradition, modify the application of strict legal rules and adapt the relief given to the circumstances of individual cases.

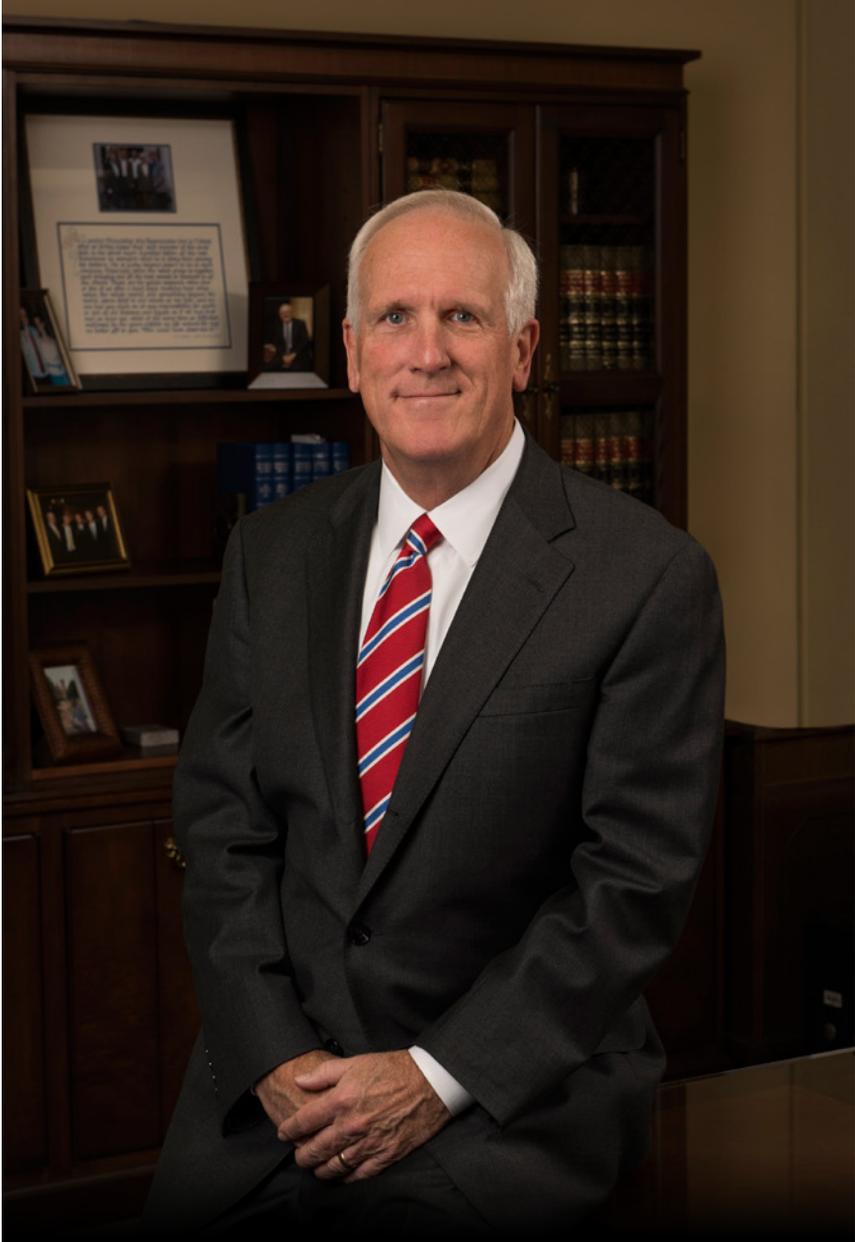
Criminal Courts are established by the General Assembly in areas where they are justified by heavy caseloads. In addition to having jurisdiction over criminal cases, Criminal Court judges hear misdemeanor appeals from lower courts and certain appeals from juvenile courts. In districts without Criminal Courts, criminal cases are handled at the trial level by Circuit Court judges.

Probate Courts are created by the Legislature and given exclusive jurisdiction over probate of wills and administration of estates. These courts also handle conservatorships and guardianships.

Trial Court Judges by Judicial District

1st Judicial District	(Carter, Johnson, Unicoi, and Washington)
Chancery Court	John C. Rambo
Circuit Court	James Edwin Lauderback (Part I) Jean A. Stanley (Part II)
Criminal Court	Lisa Nidiffer (Part I) Stacy L. Street (Part II)
 2nd Judicial District	 (Sullivan)
Chancery Court	E. G. Moody
Circuit Court	John S. McLellan, III (Part I) R. Jerry Beck (Part II)
Criminal Court	James F. Goodwin*
 3rd Judicial District	 (Greene, Hamblen, Hancock, and Hawkins)
Chancery Court	Douglas T. Jenkins
Circuit Court	Alex E. Pearson (Part I)* Thomas J. Wright (Part II) Beth Boniface (Part III)
Criminal Court	John F. Dugger, Jr.
 4th Judicial District	 (Cocke, Grainger, Jefferson, and Sevier)
Chancery Court	Telford E. Forgety, Jr.
Circuit Court	Ben W. Hooper, II (Part I)* Richard Robert Vance (Part II) Rex Henry Ogle (Part III) O. Duane Slone (Part IV)
 5th Judicial District	 (Blount)
Chancery Court	Telford E. Forgety, Jr.
Circuit Court	Tammy Harrington (Part I)* David R. Duggan (Part II)





Herbert H. Slatery III
Attorney General and Reporter

Office of the Attorney General and Reporter

425 Fifth Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37243-3400
(615) 741-3491
attorneygeneral.tn.gov

Herbert H. Slatery III, Attorney General and Reporter

Introduction

The Office of the Attorney General and Reporter is established by Article VI, Section 5 of the Tennessee Constitution. The attorney general is appointed by the justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court for an eight-year term.

The attorney general is the chief legal officer of the state. Through his staff, he represents the officers and agencies of the state in civil litigation before state and federal courts and the Tennessee Claims Commission. The attorney general prosecutes all criminal cases in the appellate courts and exercises original prosecutorial powers in limited areas. He has the authority to institute civil actions for consumer fraud, environmental enforcement, and antitrust violations, as well as ouster proceedings of public officials. In addition to courtroom duties, the attorney general provides legal advice to state departments, agencies, and the General Assembly. Published opinions of the attorney general on legal issues are rendered to state officials upon request. The attorney general reviews all administrative regulations and many state contracts, deeds, and leases. In the exercise of his reporter function, the attorney general reports the opinions of the Tennessee Supreme Court and Court of Appeals.

The attorney general is assisted by a chief deputy, solicitor general, and associate attorney general. The chief deputy coordinates and supervises the work of the office, including review of substantive work and general management of the office. The solicitor general supervises and coordinates the appellate work of the office and the preparation of the office's published opinions. The associate attorney general supervises special projects, oversees legislative matters, coordinates multistate initiatives with the National Association of Attorneys General, and assists with the daily operations of the office.

Herbert H. Slatery III

Attorney General and Reporter

Herbert H. Slatery III was sworn in as the Attorney General and Reporter for the state of Tennessee on October 1, 2014. He was appointed by the Supreme Court to serve an eight-year term.

Prior to his appointment as Attorney General and Reporter, General Slatery served as Counsel to Governor Bill Haslam from 2011–2014. In addition to providing legal advice to the Governor, he oversaw the process for judicial appointments, coordinated the legal affairs of the executive branch for the Governor, assisted in the development and implementation of legislation, and reviewed requests for executive clemency and extradition.

Before joining the Haslam Administration, General Slatery was in private practice in Knoxville with Egerton, McAfee, Armistead & Davis, P.C., for whom he served as president from 1998–2007, and chairman from 2008 through January 2011. He practiced in the areas of finance (both private and local government), corporate governance, capital formation, real estate, and acquisitions and sales of businesses.

General Slatery is a Knoxville native. He holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from the University of Tennessee. He and his wife, Cary, have two children, Frances and Harrison.

Divisions

The Office of the Attorney General is divided into eighteen divisions.

Administrative Division. *Ruth A. Thompson, Deputy.* The Administrative Division is the internal support division of the office. Its responsibilities include hiring, budget and fiscal matters, purchasing, information systems, library services, personnel, facilities management, and records management.

Bankruptcy Division. *Kathryn Behm Celauro, Deputy.* The Bankruptcy Division represents state agencies in bankruptcy courts across the country. Specifically, it represents the state's interest by filing proofs of claims and administrative claims in bankruptcy cases in which a state entity is owed a debt. The division also collects penalties and other debts owed to state departments and agencies.

Civil Litigation and State Services Division. *Kevin Steiling, Deputy.* The Civil Litigation and State Services Division represents the state's various educational agencies and institutions and deals with state purchasing and personnel matters. It represents the state in employment and construction litigation, along with reviewing state contracts.

Civil Rights and Claims Division. *Dawn M. Jordan, Acting Deputy.* The Civil Rights and Claims Division defends the State and its employees in federal civil rights actions and tort claims brought in all federal courts, state courts, and the Tennessee Claims Commission.

Consumer Advocate and Protection Division. *Cynthia E. Kinser (Mills), Deputy.* The Consumer Advocate and Protection Division consists of three teams. The Consumer Protection team protects consumers and businesses from unfair and deceptive trade practices, enforces state and federal antitrust laws, and enforces the Unauthorized Practice of Law statutes. The Consumer Advocate team represents the interests of Tennessee consumers of public utilities services. The False Claims team handles non-Medicaid false claims matters.

Criminal Justice Division. *Amy L. Tarkington, Deputy.* The Criminal Justice Division handles all appellate matters involved in procuring and defending criminal judgments in the state appellate courts. Division attorneys are responsible for interlocutory, extraordinary, direct, and post-conviction appeals, as well as for defending criminal judgments in state habeas corpus proceedings in both the trial and appellate courts.

Environmental Division. *Barry Turner, Deputy.* The Environmental Division enforces civil environmental protection laws regarding clean air, clean water, hazardous waste, and other issues.

The division gives advice to and reviews regulations for the Department of Environment and Conservation and represents the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency.

Financial Division. *C. Scott Jackson, Deputy.* The Financial Division provides legal services for much of the State's business-related activities, such as investments of the State Treasury and the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System. The division represents a number of agencies handling issues of government financing, banking, and insurance regulation.

General Civil Division. *Martha A. Campbell, Deputy.* The General Civil Division handles a wide variety of civil matters, representing a number of state departments, boards, and agencies including the departments of Children's Services, Human Services, Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, Labor and Workforce Development, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, Agriculture, Tourist Development, Veterans Services, and Military.

Health Care Division. *Linda A. Ross, Deputy.* The Health Care Division provides legal advice and representation to the Bureau of TennCare and the Department of Health and its health-related boards, such as the boards of Dentistry, Medical Examiners, Nursing, and Optometry, along with the Health Services Development Agency.

Law Enforcement and Special Prosecutions Division. *Jennifer L. Smith, Deputy.* The Law Enforcement and Special Prosecutions Division handles criminal prosecutions in matters involving criminal acts by elected state judicial officials, Securities Act violations, and violations of the state's Clean Water Act, and it also assists local district attorneys in similar prosecutions. The division represents the state's interests in federal habeas corpus and civil forfeiture proceedings and defends state agencies, including the Department of Safety, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Alcoholic Beverage Commission, in suits for declaratory and injunctive relief.

Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division. *Leslie Ann Bridges, Deputy.* The Medicaid Fraud and Integrity Division works with TennCare, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the Office of Inspector General in combating medical provider fraud in the TennCare/Medicaid program.

Office of the Solicitor General. *Andrée Sophia Blumstein, Solicitor General.* The Office of the Solicitor General oversees all appellate litigation practice in the Tennessee Supreme Court, Court of Appeals, Court of Criminal Appeals, United States Supreme Court, and Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals. The office also oversees all published opinions issued by the attorney general.

Public Interest Division. *Janet M. Kleinfelter, Deputy.* The Public Interest Division carries out the office's statutory duty to oversee the operation of nonprofit entities on behalf of Tennesseans. The division handles charitable oversight and charitable solicitations, as well as issues involving open meetings, public records, and campaigns and elections.

Real Property and Transportation Division. *Larry Teague, Deputy.* The Real Property and Transportation Division represents the state in land acquisition for all purposes. Most of the work performed by the division involves the Tennessee Department of Transportation. In addition to Nashville, the Real Property Division has regional offices in Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Jackson.

Special Litigation Division. *Steven A. Hart, Special Counsel; Michael A. Meyer, Deputy.* The Special Litigation Division handles special litigation and assists other divisions in litigation matters.

Tax Division. *Charles L. Lewis, Deputy.* The Tax Division represents the Department of Revenue in all matters related to collecting taxes. It represents a wide variety of other agencies, including the Board of Professional Responsibility, the Board of Law Examiners, the Commission on Continuing Legal Education, the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, and many of the regulatory boards of the Department of Commerce and Insurance.

Tobacco Enforcement Division. *John H. Sinclair, Jr., Deputy.* The Tobacco Enforcement Division enforces the provisions of the 1998 Master Settlement Agreement and handles other tobacco-related matters.

Staff

Lucy Honey Haynes

Chief Deputy Attorney General

Native of Fayetteville; B.S., Middle Tennessee State University, 1969; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1972; staff attorney, Legal Services of Nashville, 1973–1974; private practice, Dyersburg, 1974–1981; staff attorney, Assistant Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Labor, 1981–1987; managing attorney, Attorney General's Office, 1987–1992; deputy director of law, Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, 1992–1993; Deputy Attorney General, 1993–1997; Associate Chief Deputy, 1997–2007; appointed Chief Deputy Attorney General January 2008.



Andrée Sophia Blumstein

Solicitor General

B.A. (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa), Vassar College, 1967; M.Phil., Yale University, 1970; Ph.D., Yale University, 1973; J.D. (Order of the Coif, Vanderbilt Law Review, Research Editor, Outstanding Oralist, Appellate Advocacy), Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1981; private practice (Trabue, Sturdivant & DeWitt, 1981–1993; Sherrard & Roe, PLC, 1993–2014); Special Chief Justice of the Tennessee Supreme Court, 2012–2014; Woodward/White *The Best Lawyers in America*, 2003–2015; Antitrust, Appellate Practice, Litigation-Antitrust, and Nashville Antitrust Lawyer of the Year, 2015; appointed Solicitor General November 2014.



Bill Young

Associate Attorney General

Native of Clarksville; B.A., cum laude, Vanderbilt University, 1977; J.D., Vanderbilt University School of Law, 1981; law clerk, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, Nashville, 1981–1984; private practice, Washington, D.C., and Nashville, 1984–1985; staff attorney, FDIC, Nashville, 1985–1986; Assistant Attorney General, Attorney General's Office, 1986–1991; Senior Counsel, 1991–1995; Deputy Commissioner, Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance, 1995–1998; president, Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, 1999–2000; general counsel, Tennessee Hospital Association, Nashville, 2000–2001; counsel, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, 2001–2002; chief compliance officer and general counsel, BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, Chattanooga, 2002–2011; Solicitor General, 2011–2013; director of the Administrative Office of the Courts, 2013–2014; appointed Associate Attorney General December 2014.





Martha A. Campbell
Deputy



Kathryn Behm Celauro
Deputy



Leslie Ann Bridges
Deputy



Steven A. Hart
Special Counsel



Dawn M. Jordan
Acting Deputy



C. Scott Jackson
Deputy



Cynthia E. Kinser (Mills)
Deputy



Janet M. Kleinfelter
Deputy



Charles L. Lewis
Deputy



Michael A. Meyer
Deputy



Linda A. Ross
Deputy



John H. Sinclair, Jr.
Deputy



Jennifer L. Smith
Deputy



Kevin Steiling
Deputy



Amy L. Tarkington
Deputy

Judicial Branch



Larry Teague
Deputy



Ruth A. Thompson
Deputy



Barry Turner
Deputy

Associate Solicitors General

Gordon W. Smith

Joseph F. Whalen

Associate Deputy Attorney General

Dawn M. Jordan

Senior Counsel

Shayna R. Abrams
Rebekah A. Baker
Benjamin A. Ball
Jay C. Ballard
Nicholas G. Barca
Mary M. Bers
John H. Bledsoe
George G. Boyte, Jr.
Jennifer L. Brenner
Melissa Brodhag
Vance L. Broemel
Brad H. Buchanan
Wilson S. Buntin
Bruce M. Butler
Stephen R. Butler
Brent C. Cherry
Phyllis A. Childs
Marvin E. Clements, Jr.
Arthur Crownover, II
John W. Dalton
Martha S. Davis
Meredith DeVault
Victor J. Domen, Jr.

David H. Findley
Mary S. Foust
James E. Gaylord
Gill Robert Geldreich
M. Amanda Govan
Gina Baker Hantel
William S. Hargiss
Rachel West Harmon
Brant Harrell
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Phillip R. Hilliard
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Sohnia W. Hong
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R. Stephen Jobe
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Lauren S. Lamberth
Sophia S. Lee
Michael B. Leftwich
Pamela S. Lorch
Clarence Eric Lutz

Rebecca Lyford
William J. Maret, Jr.
Michael Markham
Elizabeth P. McCarter
Laura L. McCloud
William McCormick, Jr.
Cynthia L. Paduch
Jennifer E. Peacock
Joe C. Peel
Janie C. Porter
Leslie E. Price
Jeremy E. Pypier
Carolyn E. Reed
Heather Cairns Ross
Olha N. M. Rybakoff
Lyndsay Fuller Sanders
Sara E. Sedgwick
Sue A. Sheldon
Carolyn U. Smith
T. Leigh Thomas
Clark B. Thornton
William A. Tillner
Terry D. Tucker

Renee W. Turner
Talmage M. Watts
Eugenie B. Whitesell

Jonathan N. Wike
Lacy Wilber
Michael B. Willey

Rachel E. Willis
Stuart F. Wilson-Patton

Assistant Attorneys General

Joseph Ahillen
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Kathryn A. Baker
Philip Bangle
Keta J. Barnes
Stephanie A. Bergmeyer
Madeline Bertasi Brough
David N. Burn
E. Ashley Carter
Nathan O'Neil Casey
Richard F. Clippard
Jason Irving Coleman
Andrew C. Coulam
Michael L. DeLisle
Mary Byrd Ferrara
Eric Andrew Fuller
M. Jason Hale
Katherine M. Harper

Wayne M. Irvin
Eugenia A. Izmaylova
Amanda S. Jordan
Rachel H. Jade-Rice
Linda D. Kirklen
Ryan A. Lee
Mary E. McCullohs
Ryan L. McGehee
Troy A. McPeak
Laura E. Miller
Jessica Myers
Sara Beth Myers
Rachel A. Newton
Jared Plunk
Shannon E. Poindexter
R. Mitchell Porcello
Brian J. Ramming
M. Todd Ridley

Alexander Stuart Rieger
Joanna C. Roberts
Ahmed A. Safeeullah
Brooke K. Schiferle
Paul Jordan Scott
Timothy R. Simonds
Lindsay H. Sisco
Caitlin Smith
Nicholas White Spangler
Michael Stahl
Scott Crawford Sutherland
Elijah W. Swiney
Emily Beth Vann
Anna Waller
Jonathan H. Wardle
Jeffrey D. Zentner



District Attorneys General Conference

226 Capitol Boulevard Building, Suite 800
Nashville, TN 37243
(615) 741-1696

Jerry N. Estes, Executive Director

Introduction

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to provide for a more prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts of this state. It is composed of the district attorneys general from the state's thirty-one judicial districts. The district attorneys general are elected for a term of eight years and are responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases on behalf of the state.

The Office of the Executive Director, which was created in 1972, serves as the central administrative office for the District Attorneys General Conference. The office is responsible for budgeting, accounting, payroll, personnel, property management, and the administration of all fiscal matters pertaining to the district attorneys general and their staff. Other duties include providing law libraries to each district attorney's office, coordinating prosecution efforts, developing and implementing training programs, and providing automation support. This office is also responsible for maintaining liaison between the district attorneys general and other governmental agencies, including the courts, the General Assembly, the executive branch, and the Office of the Attorney General and Reporter.

The executive director is elected by the district attorneys general for a term of four years.

Jerry Estes

Executive Director to the District Attorneys General Conference

Born 1951, Sweetwater; married; two children; Methodist; Sweetwater High School, 1969; B.S. in agribusiness with honors, University of Tennessee at Knoxville, 1973; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1976; District Attorney General, 1982–2006; Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference: president 1996–1998, vice president 1995–1996, secretary-treasurer 1994–1995, Public Education Committee 2005–2006, Ethics Committee 2000–2003, Executive Committee 1983–1984, 1988–1989, and 2001–2002, Computer Committee 1985, Child Sexual Abuse Task Force 1984; Tennessee Bar Association: Board of Governors 1996–1998, Task Force on Drug and Alcohol Abuse 1985; National District Attorney Association: Tennessee Director, Board of Directors 2002–2006, Victim Services Committee co-chair 2002–2004; National Crime Victims Law Institute at Lewis & Clark Law School; past member,



International Association of Prosecutors; past member, American Bar Association; vice president, McMinn/Meigs Bar Association, 1978–1979; fellow, Tennessee Bar Association; elected executive director of the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference June 2015.

Staff

Guy R. Jones

Deputy Executive Director

Nancy White

Director, Fiscal Services

Casey Murphree

Director, Information Services

Laurie Steen

Director, Personnel Services

Lurene Sanders

State Child Support Coordinator

Mary Tom Hudgens

Director, Education and Training

Sue Jones

State Victim/Witness Coordinator

District Attorneys General

Judicial District	Name
1st	Anthony Clark
2nd	Barry P. Staubus
3rd	Dan Armstrong
4th	Jimmy Dunn
5th	Mike Flynn
6th	Charme Allen
7th	Dave Clark
8th	Jared Effler
9th	Russell Johnson
10th	Steve Crump
11th	Neal Pinkston
12th	J. Michael Taylor
13th	Bryant Dunaway
14th	Craig Northcott
15th	Tom P. Thompson
16th	Jennings Jones
17th	Robert Carter
18th	Lawrence Ray Whitley
19th	John W. Carney
20th	Glenn Funk
21st	Kim Helper
22nd	Brent Cooper
23rd	Ray Crouch
24th	Matt Stowe

25thD. Michael Dunavant
26th Jerry Woodall
27th Thomas Thomas
28th Garry Brown
29th Phillip Bivens
30th Amy P. Weirich
31st Lisa Zavogiannis



Judicial Branch



District Public Defenders Conference

211 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 320
Nashville, TN 37219-1821
(615) 741-5562

Jeffrey S. Henry, Executive Director

Introduction

District Public Defenders fulfill the state's obligation under the U.S. Constitution to provide a lawyer to persons accused of crimes who cannot afford one. District Public Defenders are attorneys elected in each judicial district who are appointed by the courts to represent indigent persons facing deprivation of liberty in criminal matters. The statewide system of public defenders was created by the General Assembly in 1989 as an alternative to the practice of court-appointed private attorneys.

The executive director's office is the central administrative office for twenty-nine of the District Public Defenders offices. The executive director handles budgeting, payroll, purchasing, personnel, and administration of all fiscal matters pertaining to the operation of District Public Defender offices. Other duties include coordinating defense efforts of the various District Public Defenders, developing training programs, and maintaining liaison with various state government agencies.

The executive director is elected by the District Public Defenders for a four-year term and serves as a member of the judicial planning groups as specified in the code.

Jeffrey S. Henry

Executive Director to the District Public Defenders Conference

Born 1946; married; two children; elementary and secondary education, Murfreesboro City and Rutherford County Schools; Middle Tennessee State University; B.S., liberal arts, University of Tennessee, 1968; J.D., University of Tennessee College of Law, 1971; active duty Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Army, 1971–1975; assistant district attorney, 1976–1980; private practice, 1980–1989; legal counsel, Tennessee National Guard, 1989–1997; Lieutenant Colonel (Retired), Tennessee Army National Guard; assistant district public defender, 1998–2001; director of research and training, Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference, 2001–2005; elected executive director of Tennessee District Public Defenders Conference by the District Public Defenders, June 2005; reelected 2008 and 2012; member: Tennessee Bar Association, Tennessee Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, and Tennessee Judicial Council (2005–2010); life member, Tennessee National Guard Association and National Guard Association of the United States.



Staff

Paige Edwards
Assistant Executive Director

Maria Anderson
Personnel Director

Kathy Hartman
Fiscal Director

Kirk Yoquelet
Research Director/Staff Attorney

District Public Defenders

Judicial District	Name
1st	Jeff Kelly
2nd.....	Stephen M. Wallace
3rd	Greg W. Eichelman
4th	Edward C. Miller
5th	Mack Garner
6th	Mark E. Stephens
7th	Tom Marshall
8th	Leif Ericson Jeffers
9th	Kim R. Nelson
10th.....	Richard Hughes, Jr.
11th.....	Steven E. Smith
12th.....	Jeff Harmon
13th.....	Craig P. Fickling
14th.....	John E. Nicoll
15th.....	Comer L. Donnell
16th.....	Gerald Lynn Melton
17th.....	Donna L. Hargrove
18th.....	David Allen Doyle
19th.....	Roger E. Nell
20th.....	Dawn Deaner
21st.....	Vanessa Pettigrew Bryan
22nd.....	Claudia Jack
23rd.....	William B. "Jake" Lockert III
24th.....	Guy T. Wilkinson
25th.....	Bo Burk
26th.....	George Morton Googe
27th.....	Joseph P. Atnip
28th.....	Tom W. Crider
29th.....	James E. Lanier
30th.....	Stephen Bush
31st.....	John P. Partin

